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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Philippines*: draft resolution

Proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/111 of 20 December 1993 regarding the proposal to merge the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/160 of 23 December 1994 regarding the proposed merger,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/111, dated 7 July 1994, 1/

Bearing also in mind the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 48/111, dated 7 September 1994, 2/

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ A/49/217-E/1994/103.

2/ A/49/365-E/1994/119.

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Taking into consideration the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/160 to the Secretary-General that he submit, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, an updated report, which would contain, inter alia, the information requested in Economic and Social Council decision 1993/235 of 27 July 1993 and in paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 48/111, as well as the additional information requested by the Advisory Committee,

Taking also into consideration paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/160, which requested the Economic and Social Council to re-examine the issue at a resumed session to take place after the Fourth World Conference on Women and before the Third Committee of the General Assembly considered the item on the advancement of women, taking into account the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session and of the Fourth World Conference concerning institutional arrangements in the United Nations system for the advancement of women,

Keeping in mind that the Commission on the Status of Women did not give an opinion on this matter, as requested in General Assembly resolution 49/160, owing to the lack of proper documentation and background information,

Keeping also in mind that the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 3/ in reviewing the institutional arrangements for the advancement of women within the United Nations system, was of the opinion that all the institutional arrangements should be strengthened and provided with the necessary resources to permit them to contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action, as adopted,

Keeping further in mind that the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women did not recommend the proposed merger of the Institute and the Fund but outlined their mandates separately and distinctly,

1. Recommends that the interaction between the Commission on the Status of Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be reviewed and rationalized within the context of ongoing efforts to revitalize the Economic and Social Council in pursuance of a stronger, more unified programme for the advancement of women as requested in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 48/111;

2. Also recommends that any proposal dealing with the institutional structure and the mandates of the different United Nations bodies responsible for the advancement of women must be considered part of the general restructuring exercise of the United Nations;

3. Reaffirms the statute of the Institute adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/249 of 9 April 1985;

3/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I.

4. Endorses the opinion expressed by the Inspector in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit 4/ entitled "The advancement of women through and in the programmes of the United Nations system: what happens after the Fourth World Conference on Women", which reaffirms that the vast majority of women, and the most pressing problems for women, are in the developing world and that therefore at least one of the specific United Nations women's units should be based there as well;

5. Also endorses the view expressed in paragraph 360 of the Beijing Platform for Action that the Institute has an important role to play in the implementation of the Platform for Action and therefore the resources provided by the international community need to be sufficient and should be maintained at an adequate level;

6. Concurs with the recommendations of the Fourth World Conference on Women on the mandates and future roles of the Institute and the Fund, as outlined separately and distinctly in the Beijing Platform for Action, and believes that this distinction should be maintained;

7. Decides that, as the necessary elements do not exist to justify a merger of the Institute and the Fund, the merger should not proceed as proposed.

4/ A/50/509, para. 225.